Howland Wood - Curatorial

British Museum (George F. Hill)
(Dept. of Coins + Medals

1915-1935

London, England)

DEPARTMENT OF COINS AND MEDALS,
BRITISH MUSEUM,
LONDON: W.C.

Ap. 3. 1915

My dear Sir.

Please accept my best thanks for so kindly sending the pulls from the plates of Greek coins from the American Numismatic Journal, together with the copy of Miss Baldwin's

article on coins of
Chios. I am writing
to thank her by the
same post.

I am, dear Sir,

Yours faithfully

G F Hill

The Secretary
American Numismatic Society

DEPARTMENT OF COINS AND MEDALS,
BRITISH MUSEUM,
LONDON: W.C.

Dec. 16. 1915

Howland Wood, Esq

Dear Sir,

I shall be grateful if you can throw any light on the origin of the gold coin of which I enclose plaster-casts (which need not be returned). It weighs 415·4 grs., i.e. as near as possible 17 dwts. 8 grs., or the

Spanish "Double Doubloon" (Chalmers, p. 104). It has been brought up to this weight by the addition of the plug, which is counter-marked with an alligator and the letters GC. I cannot find these counter-marks in any book on the subject. Mr. Allan suggests that they mean Grant Cayman, which is certainly ingenious.

I propose to insert a note about the coin, which has just been presented to the Museum, in the Numismatic Chronicle; but if in your opinion the coin is new and of sufficient importance for you to publish it also, you are welcome to do so.

I am, dear Sir,

Yours faithfully

G F Hill

January 4, 1916.

George F. Hill, Esq.,
Dept. of Coins and Medals,
British Museum,
London, W.C.,
England.

Dear Sir:-

Your favor of December 16th at hand enclosing a plaster cast of a plugged and counterstamped Peruvial Onza.

To my mind this is the most interesting one of these I have ever heard of, and is absolutely new to me. Although Mr. Allan suggests that the G C might be for Gran Cayman, I am inclined to think that the G C are the initials of the person responsible for the plug. This has been my experience with a good many of the plugged coins. Take for instance the I W and the I H the G H the B the T B the T P and the T S on various gold. They would fit no locality and we know that two or three of them are the initials of of the person responsible for the plug. I think the clue to your piece is the alligator. Off hand I would say this was for Jamaica as that is the crest of the arms. It should be a matter of record to find out how far back this crest goes. I don't think this pieces was stamped before 1773. You will note in Chalmer's, on page 107, that about this time there several Acts passed that might give some reason for so plugging this piece to bring up its weight. You have in your library, my recent pamphley on The Coinage of the West Indies. A comparison of the stamp figured on my coin 108 and the stamp on your piece, leads me to think that both punches were made by the same man. I have this stamp on the silver coin somewheres around 1810. In reading over what little history there is on the Currency system in Jamaica, and bearing in mind the maker of this stamp as being the same one who made the stamp for the silver coin, I would say this stamp on the gold coin was used about 1800.

I very much doubt if I will publish anything more on West Indian coin at present but when I do I certainly will make use of your kind offer to speak of your piece. I think the piece is of sufficient interest and importance to put in the Numismatic Chronicle, and will await what conclusions you have arrived at.

I am sending you some photographs, which you can make use of in any way you see fit, of anminteresting series of coins. These have been published to some extent in two places ------ In the Proceedings of the American Numismatic Society, page XXXIII for January 1915., which you will find at the back of the American Journal of Numismatics

volume 48 and in the American Journal of Numismatics page 13, July 1892, in the Proceedings of the American Numismatic & Archaeological Society, page 41, 1893, and the Numismatist, page 154, for April 1915. I need not go into detail as these coins are pretty well explained in the above accounts, except one fact not vlearly brought out. That is the date on Brasher Doubloon (the imitation of the Spanish one) with apparent (1)742 for the date. This is not significant as it being bodily copied from the pattern he had to go by. The real date is near the edge and which unfortunately barely shows. A careful study has given without any question, the first three figures as 178, the last figure is 0, 3, 5, 6, 65 9. I am inclined to reject, on account of the weight of line on one side, all of these figures except 3 and 5. That being the case this newly discovered piece would show that the type copied from the Spanish Onza was rejected for a new design, the previously known type. You will note by the Portugues Joe, as well as by other coins extant, thatthe E B punch was used as a guarantee for the plug of the coin being brought up to the correct weight. That Brasher did this is a matter of record, and he used the same punch on those coins he made, as a further guarantee.

Kindly give my regards to Mr. Allan, and believe me,

Very sincerely yours,

DEPARTMENT OF COINS AND MEDALS,
BRITISH MUSEUM,
LONDON: W.C.

Jan. 17. 1916

Howland Wood, Esq.

My dear Sir,

I am most grateful to you for your full and prompt reply to my letter. It is interesting to know that the counterstamped onza is really new to numismatists. Your suggestion that the source is Jamaica tallies with my first notion; but Mr. Allan's

ingenious idea of Grand Cayman attracted me. You must however be right.

I will put a short note into the Numismatic Chronicle, making use of your valuable suggestions, and trying to see whether anything is known as to the date when the alligator was adopted as the crest of Jamaica.

Many thanks too for the

very interesting photographs
of the Brasher doubloons &c.;
I am very glad to have
them with your remarks.
Mr. Olsen joins with
me in kind regards
to you

Yours sincerely

FT Haff

January 31, 1916.

George F. Hill, Esq.,

Dept. of Coins and Medals,

British Museum,

London, W. C.

England

Dear Mr. Hill:-

Your favor of January 17th at hand. The West Indian series is full of novelties and curious pieces, and I would like to see more publicity and research given them as I think they deserve it.

I am enclosing a Byzantine of Constans II that puzzles me. The name of the mint on the back I cannot find anywhere. Are you acquainted with the piece? The workmanship seems to be in keeping with the regular series and the weight is 27 grs. I have no further use for the cast.

Kindly remember me to Mr. Allan, and believe me,

Very sincerely yours.

BRITISH MUSEUM,

LONDON: W.C.

Feb. 12. 1916

Dear Mr. Howland Wood,

many thanks for your letter. Frankly, I do not know what to make of the Byzantine folios. Were the work less good, I would say BORK was simply a misunderstanding by a barbarian of the CONOBK on one of, for instance, [illegible]

But the work seems, as you say, no worse than that of the ordinary coins, and the piece looks to me perfectly genuine. There are some curious words in the exergues of earlier coins, such as OBXX and BOXX (Wroth, BMC I pp. 164, 187), and it might possibly be an attempt at something of

the same kind.

If I get any further
light on the subject I
will let you know.

I will give your message
to Mr. Allan when I see
him; he has been trans-
ferred to the War Office,
but looks in most days.
I have now only one
assistant left, and he
will be called up for
military service soon

The Government are closing most of the museums to the public in a fit of mistaken economy. It is characteristic that we should begin to economise on the one form of relaxation which induces the poor to use their brains, and which they cannot supply at home, while we leave it open to them to spend hundreds of thousands of pounds on "picture-palaces."

With kind regards

Yours very truly

[illegible]

BRITISH MUSEUM,

LONDON: W.C.

P.S. I am puzzled by one difficulty about the attribution of these plugged 4d's come to Jamaica. Having used the GR crowned stamp both before and after the time by which it seems the new coins must be supposed, why did the authorities diverge from the simple

and use the
GC mark?

GW

March 4, 1916.

G. F. Hill, Esq.,
Dept. of Coins & Medals,
British Museum,
London, W. C.
England.

Dear Mr. Hill:-

Your letter at hand and like yourself, I am at a loss about that Byzantine Soldius of ours, for in every way it corresponds with the regular series. It would be interesting to find the same obverse die used with one of the regular reverses.

The other day I directed a letter to the Department for Mr. Allan as I had a suspicion that he might be transferred or called out. I note by your letter that he has been transferred to the War Office. Convey my best regards to him when you see him.

Like you, I think that in strenuous times like these, the poor and the classes that cannot think for themselves, should be provided more with brain and thought food than with nerve food and excitement.

The best explanation I can give about the changing of the stamp on your plugged coin is this. Silver was largely counterstamped by the Insular and Provincial Governments to legitimatize certain Spanish coins of approved weights and sizes, for use on that certain island. When it was a question of adapting or standardizing the gold coinage, other elements crept in.- Namely, a determination of what was good and what was counterfeit, what was heavy and what was light. In many cases the system of coins on the islands, or the standards used, did not conform with the weights of the gold coins in circulation, be they were either Spanish or Portuguese gold. Consequently experts were entrusted with this work, who rejected the counterfeits and brought up to the required standard, the light weight gold, or in cases where the Spanish or Portuguese systems did not conform with the Island standard, raising the weight by plugging of all the coins examined. As near as I am able to determine, the first coins so treated were simply plugged and not stamped, but unscrupulous people inserted plugs on base gold so that it became necessary to stamp these plugs and in nearly every case that I know of, the initials or marks on these plugs did not bear the names of localities or rulers, but probably the initials of the responsible persons, for we know of several examples where the initials stand for the

people that superintended this work. A glance through the gold coins that I have mentioned will show this in a number of instances where the coins have been plugged. The I ″ on the Grenada gold, the G R on the St. Vincent, the T J on that gold tested in New York, etc.. On the other hand, that gold that was plugged, for the most part bore some sort of a governmental stamp as the G R on the pieces for Jamaica under the Act of 1758, for you will note that both the gold and silver are simply stamped, and no attempt made at changing the weight by either holes or plugs. The same remark applies to the gold of Guadeloupe of 1811.

I have picked up one or two more gold coins since I wrote my monograph, plugged and stamped with initials, none of them however, so where near as interesting as your piece. In other words, I consider the stamp on plugged gold coins the endorsement of the person responsible, rather than the government responsible. We have it on absolute record that this happened in New York, and New York at that time was in close touch with the West Indies and a great deal of bullion went back and forth.

This argument that I have been using is my own, I cannot prove it but have come to this conclusion very largely from observation and that little knowledge I have been able to pick up. I would be very glad to hear of any information or evidence that you may be able to pick up on this subject.

I remain,

Yours very truly,

DEPARTMENT OF COINS AND MEDALS,
BRITISH MUSEUM,
LONDON: W.C.

Mar. 20. 1916

Dear Mr. Howland Wood

Very many thanks for your letter of 14th. inst. I will incorporate the gist of your remarks in my paper, with due acknowledgment.

Mr. Allan has your previous letter, & is dealing with it; but he is only able to look in here occasionally for a few minutes.

Yours Sincerely

G F Hill

POST CARD.

THE ADDRESS TO BE WRITTEN ON THIS SIDE.

UNION
MAR 21
2. 15 PM

Howland Wood, Esq.
American Numismatic Society
Broadway at 156th. Street
New York
U.S.A.

November 28, 1916.

J. F. Hill, Esq.,
Dept. of Coins & Medals,
British Museum,
London, W. C.,
England.

Dear Mr. Hill:-

Your letter at hand enclosing acknowleigement of the new dime that I sent you. I would be very glad to have you give the second specimen to any Museum that wants it. I forgot all about sending one to the Bibliotheque Nationale. If you want any more of these new dimes for distribution, let me know. They are made at all three of our mints; the Denver mint with a D, the San Francisco mint with an S and the Philadelphia mint, like the one you have, without any mark. As yet I have not seen a single one in circulation though they have coined them in large quantities. It probably will be a month or so before one begins to see them. When the new quarters and half dollars come out I will send you specimens. If at any time you want any of our new coins or proof coins, let me know and I can order them for you.

The various revolutionists in Mexico have issued a number of coins, most of them very crude and for the most part hard to get hold of. I have gotten hold of about seventy varities representing seven different factions. Some I have gotten for about face value, others I have had to pay several dollars for. If you want, I can try to get you some of these.

I will speak to Newell about that matter of the memorial medals. He mentioned the matter to me the other day. As you may know, his head-quarters are now in our building and he has his collection installed in a large room here. Mrs. Brett also has an office here for research work and wishes to be remembered to you.

We have just sent you the current number of the American Journal of Numismatics which has been very much delayed, and I trust that you will get it safely.

Wishing you the compliments of the season, I am,

Very truly yours,

Journal just to hand, many thanks

DEPARTMENT OF COINS AND MEDALS,
BRITISH MUSEUM,
LONDON, W.C.

Dec. 16. 1918

Dear Mr. Howland Wood,

Many thanks for your letter of 28 Nov. I will offer your dime to the Fitzwilliam Museum, Cambridge, where they are interested in modern as well as ancient coins; whereas at Oxford and the Hunterian they care more for the older ones.

What you say about the

Mexican coins is very interesting. We are always very glad to have anything of that sort, but, alas! our grant is suspended altogether, and we depend entirely upon gifts. Anything of trifling pecuniary value that you have in duplicate and care to spare, will be gladly accepted. You see I am taking your words au pied de la lettre.

My kind regards to Mrs. Brett and Newell, as well as to yourself. I hope the coming year may be brighter. The latest German peace-move is a surprising piece of bluff, and, so long as it doesn't take in anybody, rather encouraging to us.

Yours sincerely [illegible]

January 5, 1917.

George F. Hill, Esq.,
Department of Coins & Medals,
British Museum,
London, W. C.,
England.

Dear Mr. Hill:-

Your letter of December 16th at hand and under spearate cover I am sending you two of our new fifty cent pieces put into circulation on Tuesday, January 2nd. These, you will note are dated 1916 as they were struck in the latter part of last year. I don't think they will be rare as enough was made to satisfy all demands. These were designed by Weinman as was the new dime. The quarter dollar as yet has not appeared, although by special favor, we have a couple of them in our cabinet. Kindly offer one of these to the Fitz William Museum.

In the same package I am sending you the following Mexican Revolutionary coins:

Mexico, Peso of 1913 struck by order of Villa at Villalco del Parral in Chihuahua in Nov. 1913, by Gen. Jacloyia Herrera.
" 50 Centavos 1913, Same story.
" 2 Centavos 1913, Same story, The copper used was from the trolley wire of the Parral-Santa Barbara Railway.
" 5 Centavos, 1914 Struck by Villa at Chihuahua
" 5 " 1915 Same
" 10 " 1915 Same
" 1 Peso. 1915. Villa's coinage after he broke from Carranza. "Ejercito del Norte"
West " 2 Peso struck by Emiliano Zapata at Tasco in Guerro in 1914.
" 1 Peso same remarks 1914.
Card board money Constitutionalists 5 centavos
" " " " Yucatan, 10 centavos.

Please accept all of these as a donation from The American Numismatic Society, except the two pieces struck by Zapata, which together with the two new half dollars, can be

credited from me.

Most of the money in use in Mexico to-day, is paper money or card board. The metallic money is seldom seen, probably more of it is in this country than in Mexico, except possibly the copper.

Mrs. Pratt and Mr. Nevell send their regards. Mr. Nevell says he is going to write you very soon.

I remain,

Yours very truly,

January 22, 1917.

Mr. George F. Hill
Department of Coins & Medals,
British Museum,
London, Eng.

Dear Mr. Hill:-

I am herewith sending you a new quarter dated 1916, by Hermann MacNeil, together with two quarters of the same type dated 1917. One of these you can forward to the Fitz-William Museum. I am also sending you one of the new half dollars dated 1917.

The 1916 quarters may be scarce. There is a funny story connected with these. During the latter part of the year, when the new coinage was being prepared, the Mint was worked to the limit in turning out nickels and bronze coins. The demand for silver coins had been dormant for most of the year and suddenly large orders for silver came in and the Mint was authorized to strike quarters and dimes of the old type as the new dies were either not ready or the facilities for striking the new money was not up to the standard. During the latter part of the year they managed to put out a number of million of the new dimes and they also succeeding in issuing several millions of the new dollars. These, as I wrote you in my last letter were released on the 2nd and 3rd of January. The word was given out that the quarter dollars would not be struck in 1916. A small batch however, was sent to the Treasury department in Washington and a number were unofficially given out by officials to friends. This was absolutely out of order and two or three got into circulation. A certain bank received one in the course of business and demanded that the Mint supply them with the new quarters. This created such a howl that the order was given from Washington to strike a sufficient number of these to prevent undue speculation. As near as I can find out these were struck during the last few days of the year. If any were struck in 1917 the Mint officials are saying nothing about it as that is against the regulations to satisfy the public. They had been striking more of those dated 1917. I have been unable to find out how many of the 1916 quarters were made.

Few collectors have them and I know of no Banks that have been able to get more than a few. Those that I have I have gotten from the Mint at Philadelphia, two or three at a time.

I beg to remain,

Yours very sincerely,

DEPARTMENT OF COINS AND MEDALS,
BRITISH MUSEUM,
LONDON: W.C.

Jan. 19. '07

Dear Mr. Howland Wood

I cannot thank you sufficiently for your generous gift of the extremely interesting Mexican coins; and I know well also that the gift from the American Numismatic Society is due to your initiative. Please be assured of our warm appreciation of your kindness

You will receive formal acknowledgments in due course.

I hope to be able to send you an off-print of my note — which chiefly consists of information received from you! — on our new gold plugged W. Indian coin.

With kind regards to Mr. Newell and Mrs. Baldwin Brett — as well as yourself

Yours sincerely,

G. F. Hill

Dup Letter sent Dec 28 1917

February 7, 1917.

Mr. George F. Hill,
Department of Coins & Medals,
British Museum,
London, W. C.,
England.

Dear Mr. Hill:-

Your letter of January 16th at hand and I am glad that you have gotten the Mexican pieces safely. I may be able to add to these from time to time. Can you tell me whether any Lauria money was struck in 1816? I have been unable to find out or get a set.

I am enclosing a cut of a medal and note that bronze specimens were recently offered to various British Museums. We would like to get hold of this medal and if you can tell me where to write to I will see if I can obtain one. I read with much interest your remarks, which were chiefly mine, about the gold West Indian coin in the last Chronicle.

Does the British Museum have any standard for the internal arrangement of coins? Thus - modern coins, Victoria for instance, do you put all the gold together and all the silver together, etc., or do you keep them by years or all of the gold and silver and copper of 1838 and then the same for 1839, and where there are different mints as in France, do you keep the mints separate, or adhere to a chronological arrangement? Wehere follow no one system. It has been customary to arrange the United States coins by denominations, that is, all of the twenty dollar gold pieces together and all of the tens and so on, but with coins other than the United States, we for the most part adopt a chronological arrangement.

We have so increased our collections the past few years that we absolutely are over crowded and our coins and medals are in partial confusion as we have to put them any where we can find room. We are contemplating a series of standard cabinets, our present ones are of every conceivable shape and size, relics of the past fifty years. Heretofore we

have kept the medals entirely separate from the coins. The idea has occurred to me whether or not it might be better to put the medals of a given country following the coins of that country. Do you think this the best idea?

Everybody here is much relieved that we have broken our diplomatic relations with Germany, if for no other reason than the sending of notes is put an end to. Personally I don't see that we have gained anything as we are neither one thing or the other now. Most people think our Mexican situation a farce but the fact remains our army and National Guard is as thoroughly trained and equipped as well as seasoned as can possibly be in times of peace. By sending all of our troops to the border we now have about 300,000 men in particularly good shape.

I remain,

Yours very truly,

DEPARTMENT OF COINS AND MEDALS,
BRITISH MUSEUM,
LONDON, W.C.

Feb. 7. 1917

Dear Mr. Howland Wood,

Very many thanks indeed for your kind letter of 22 Jan., which is just to hand, containing the half. dollar and the three quarters; I have sent one of the latter to the Fitzwilliam Museum. Your story about the 1916 quarters makes them doubly interesting.

We are, as you may imagine, extraordinarily interested in America's action in breaking with Germany

I wonder whether it will come to war. The President will be a clever man if he can keep out of it; but I think the general feeling is that the States will do more service to the cause of civilization by keeping clear of actual war. The worst time for us is still to come, but we cannot be far off the end now.

Yours very sincerely —
with renewed thanks —

G F Hill

Department of Coins and Medals,
British Museum,
London, W.C.

Feb. 24. 1917

Dear Mr. Howland Wood.

I send you, as some small acknowledgement of your kindness, a reprint of my note on the gold rings. I trust that the Censor will let it through, and that it will escape the Hun submarines. Which, by the way, seem to be doing less harm than one feared they would

Give my kind regards to
Newell and Mrs. Baldwin
Brett when you see them

Yours sincerely,

G T Hall

DEPARTMENT OF COINS AND MEDALS,
BRITISH MUSEUM,
LONDON, W.C.

Feb. 27. '17

Dear Mr. Howland Wood,

Many thanks for your letter. I sent you the other day the ~~proof~~ cutting of {my / your!} note on the West Indian gold piece, but it may get torpedoed, even if the censor lets it through. There is some restriction on printed matter going through to neutral Countries, and it must bore the censor to have to read a numismatic article!

Our specimen of the medal for French writers killed in action was given us, or at any rate sent us, by M. Henri Noeg himself. His address is 13 Quai St. Michel, Paris. We asked for it through a friend; if I knew him, I would offer to write to him myself on your behalf.

As regards the arrangement of our coins, we have one main principle, viz. that until a series is described in one of our printed catalogues, or some other work of reference which contains descriptions of all our coins, we arrange them in such a way that any individual coin may most easily be found. For this reason we keep all the

Department of Coins and Medals,
British Museum,
London, W.C.

gold coins separate in each reign; they are followed by the silver, and these by the copper. Obviously if a person wants to find a coin of Elizabeth, we will say, he will find it more quickly if all the gold are together than if they are under years; especially as coins often bear no dates. But when we have catalogued a series, say the coins of Syracuse, we arrange them according to what we suppose to be the

chronological order; because you can look up any one in the catalogue and find out its number. Of course there are exceptions to this general rule.

For practical reasons I would not put the medals with the coins. For coins we have been, for years, introducing one uniform large cabinet; it is desirable to have them small (12 to 14 inches cube) so that they can be easily shifted. But medal cabinets should be rather larger, otherwise you get so few medals in a tray. I have made many experiments, & not yet found a satisfactory plan for arranging medals. We now use shallow trays, in which we place the

DEPARTMENT OF COINS AND MEDALS,
BRITISH MUSEUM,
LONDON, W.C.

medals, each in a cardboard case. It isn't a bad plan to have the case with a flat roof projecting over the top edge, on which you can write particulars, so as to identify the medal quickly: thus

But it is difficult to get them of a material which doesn't go to pieces soon. If you have plenty of money to spend on such things you can

probably devise something better. It is difficult to fit such cases into the trays in any satisfactory order.

What you say about your army is very interesting. They are probably first-rate frontiersmen, and even with the entirely novel conditions of the war in Europe we have found that such men have been quickest to pick up the new ways.

It looks to-day as if the "overt act" had really come, if it is true that there were some Americans on the Laconia.

Yours very sincerely

G F Hill

DEPARTMENT OF COINS AND MEDALS,
BRITISH MUSEUM,
LONDON: W.C.

1

Mar. 26. 17

Dear Mr. Howland Wood,

I find from our letter book that I wrote to you on Feb. 24 27, and Mar. 1st. I hope you have had these letters, one of which answered yours in which you enquired about the method of arranging coins. If you did not receive it let me know & I will write again. I regret I did not keep a copy of my letter. Yours of acknowledging mine of Feb 17 just to hand. Yes it looks like war for you before many weeks are out, I don't see any [illegible]

Yours sincerely [illegible]

POST CARD.

THE ADDRESS TO BE WRITTEN ON THIS SIDE.

21 MAR 10

21 MAR 10

Howland Wood, Esq
American Numismatic Society
Broadway at 155th & 156th St.
New York
U.S.A.

May 18, 1917.

George F. Hill, Esq.,
Department of Coins & Medals,
British Museum,
London, W.,
England.

Dear Mr. Hill:-

Your various letters at hand and I have been meaning to answer them for sometime but new duties and pressure of work have prevented my doing so.

I want to thank you in behalf of our Society for the pamphlet "On Medals" which I read with much interest. I think, however, that the making of a medal is wholly up to the individual. Those designers and die-cutters who know how to make a medal and appreciate what and what should not go into such a small surface, can work equally well by direct cutting of the die or through the aid of a reducing machine. There are two or three medallists in this country who appreciate this and we have had one or two talks in our meetings on this very subject. Two or three of the more successful medallists here make their models as near the size of the finished product as possible and then enlarge their work for the reducing machine. Their success has been rather good.

I beg to thank you for the reprint about the counterstamped gold piece. We have just secured a large 50 Peso gold piece struck at Oaxaca in Mexico. It is of good gold and weighs exactly thirty dollars in American currency. I am sending you a photograph of it.

Mrs. Brett is busy on a further article on the Symbolism found on Greek coins, and wishes to be remembered to you. Mr. Newell is going to write you in a few days and also send you a duplicate of his previous letter as the other letter may have been lost on the way over.

We, in all probability, are going to install a uniform system of cabinets, probably of steel, with possibly, steel drawers of a uniform size so that all of the drawers will fit any wheres. As any of our coins worth while may be placed out on temporary exhibition, we keep virtually all of our coins in black boxes similar to the one you have drawn, but with the label part at the bottom. These are made sufficiently stout and from about eight years experience, they seem to be in as good condition now as in the beginning. We have these boxes in a great many different sizes, each size a quarter of an inch larger. Most of them have a square openning but we have certain ones long and narrow for badges and odd shapedcoins. Our new cabinet idea, however, it held up on account of the war as we really don't know where we are at because if the proposed system of taxation is put through, we certainly cannot look for contributions or outside aid. We are planning to adopt an idea that you have in the coin department - having suitable shields placed around the balcony or cornice of our second floor, inscribed with the names of our more important donors and a brief summary of their donations. Could you let me know about how you have worded these shields?

We have recently installed in the building, the Ramsden collection of Chinese coins numbering about fifteen thousand pieces, as well as Mr. Reilly's collection numbering several thousand, which added to the Society's own collection of Far Eastern coins, will easily number over twenty-five thousand. However, numbers do not count in Chinese coins, but it is safe to say that we now have a large number of the great rarities in the series, and we are taking steps to put good conscientious work on these and if the funds are available, to hold of certain experts, preferably Chinese. We have recently had turned over to us on permanent loan, a very wonderful collection of Indian coins collected many years ago and including a large collection purchased in India by an American named Durkee. This collection had been lost sight of. In fact, had been completely buried for years until we dug it up. We are also receiving by gift, two fairly large and comprehensive collection of Oriental coins which probably will be in our possession in a few months. We will consequently have, added to the Society's own Oriental collection, a very strong collection of Mohammadan coin coins to start with. It is our intention now to publish certain series that we are strongest in and from what I have seen of these collections, we will have some of the more out-of-the-way series very well represented.

Since I wrote you last we have entered the war and personally I am very glad of it. There seems to be some uncertainty just what we will do. On the face of it, it looks as if we were going into it slowly with the avowed intentions of doing our very best with as few mistakes as possible. Although I do not know everything that is going on, I think a great deal more is being done than is given out. Our Government seems to be in absolute accord and harmony with England and France and seem to be working in absolute cooperation. Congress seems to be taking its own time about voting this and that, but in the end seems to vote everything and more too, than is expected. There is absolutely no excitement or

fever in this country but there is a grim determination on the part of everyone to do their bit where it will do the most good. We have always been a hap-hazzard, trusting to luck nation but judging from the under current that is going through the country, it strikes me that we are completely changing over and are starting out to do things thoroughly and right. Let us hope so.

I remain,

Yours very sincerely,

DEPARTMENT OF COINS AND MEDALS,

BRITISH MUSEUM,

LONDON: W.C.

June 12, 1917.

Dear Mr. Howland Wood,

On my return from a few days in the country I find your kind letter of May 18, with its messages from Mrs. Baldwin Brett and Mr. Newell, to both of whom please give my kind regards when you see them. I have not had any letter from the latter recently, so I fear the one you mention may have been lost.

The Berlin Museum, as you know, has an arrangement of iron drawers for its coins. When I was there some years ago there was some doubt whether chemical action might not have been set up between the iron and some of the [illegible] certainly a good many of their Syrian bronze coins were 'sick'; but I think you will find that in any collection. However, you would do well to consult your chemists, and try a few experiments placing antique bronze coins (especially the sort that come from Palestine) in contact with iron under varying temperatures, before you install steel cabinets.

Our commemorative shillings are very ugly — real "Office of Works" art. You will doubtless not like them. Here are my reasons:

DEPARTMENT OF COINS AND MEDALS,

BRITISH MUSEUM,

LONDON: W.C.

1889. Bequeathed by Pandit Bhagwanlal Indraji of Bombay :
his Collection of Indian Coins

and

1911. Presented by Henry Van den Bergh, Esq.
The Pleasby Collection of Muhammadan Coins of India.

You are certainly to be congratulated on the way you are going ahead with your Oriental Collections.

We too, I need not say, are very glad that America has entered the war. And you are evidently going to do the thing thoroughly while you are about it. What unconscious benefactors to the human race the Germans ~~were~~ are ! First of all they have given the British Empire, which they supposed was going to crumble to dust at the sound of their trumpets, a clear consciousness of its unity and strength and -- if it ever was decadent -- a new lease of life ; and now they have brought the whole English-speaking world together against themselves ! Your advance guard -- Mr. Pershing and his Staff -- have been welcomed here with a good deal of quiet enthusiasm ; and we know that your navy is already at work. The weak point in the whole business at present is Russia. Heaven knows what is going to happen there ; but Russia has an astonishing faculty of recuperation after what,

to a more highly organized community, would be a knock-out blow.

Anyhow, things look much brighter than they did a few months

Yours very sincerely

GT Hull

DEPARTMENT OF COINS AND MEDALS,
BRITISH MUSEUM, LONDON, W. C.

June 12, 1917.

Dear Mr. Howland Wood:

On my return from a few days in the country I find your kind letter of May 18, with its messages from Mrs. Baldwin Brett and Mr. Newell, to both of whom please give my kind regards when you see them. I have not had any letter from the latter recently, so I fear the one you mention may have been lost.

The Berlin Museum, as you know, has an arrangement of iron drawers for its coins. When I was there some years ago there was some doubt whether chemical action might not have been set up between the iron and some of the copper alloys in the coins. Certainly a good many of their Syrian bronze coins were 'sick'; but I think you will find that in any collection. However, you would do well to consult your chemists, and try a few experiments, placing antique bronze coins (especially the sort that come from Palestine) in contact with iron under varying temperatures, before you install steel cabinets.

Our commemorative shields are very ugly - real "Office of Works" art. You will doubtless do better. Here are specimen wordings :

1889. Bequeathed by Pandit Bhagvanlal Indraji of Bombay :
His Collection of Indian Coins
and
1911. Presented by Henry Van den Bergh, Esq.
The Bleazby Collection of Muhammadan Coins of India.

You are certainly to be congratulated on the way you are going ahead with your Oriental Collections.

We too, I need not say, are very glad that America has entered the war. And you are evidently going to do the thing thoroughly while you are about it. What unconscious benefactors to the human race the Germans are! First of all they have given the British Empire, which they supposed was going to crumble to dust at the sound of their trumpets, a clear consciousness of its unity and strength and -- if it ever was decadent -- a new lease of life ; and now they have brought the whole English-speaking world together against themselves! Your advance guard -- Gen. Pershing and his Staff -- have been welcomed here with a good deal of quiet enthusiasm ; and we know

that your navy is already at work. The weak point in the whole business at present is Russia. Heaven knowns what is going to happen there ; but Russia has an astonishing faculty of recuperation after what, to a more highly organized community, would be a knock-out blow.

Anyhow, things look much brighter than they did a few months ago.

Yours very sincerely,

(Signed). G. F. HILL.

August 3rd, 1917.

G. F. Hill, Esq.,
Department of Coins and Medals,
British Museum,
London, England.

My dear Mr. Hill:-

Your letter was forwarded to me while I was on my vacation, and I have shown it to both Mr. Howell and Mrs. Pratt on my return.

We are having a steel case made as a try-out. The case will stand about eighty inches high, and contain two tiers of shallow drawers about eighteen inches square. All of the drawers will be of the same depth, but are so arranged that they can be slid in on various runners so as to increase their depth, as we want them to accomodate medals and thick coins. It is our purpose, if the first case is a success, to add units as we want them, and as the drawers will be interchangable, we think we have solved the difficulty of overcrowding in any given series, providing that we have enough money to have a sufficient number of cases. I will let you know later how we come out on this proposition. From what preliminary experiments we have made and consultation with experts, we can not see how this case will effect the coins as the steel is completly covered over with a hard baked enamel that, as far as we are able to discover, has nothing in it to injure or change the coins in any way. I have also studied a similar set of cases that have been in use for seven years at the State Library at Hartford. I am glad you brought up this point, and will keep my eyes open. However, there are certain of the Ancient coins that seem to be attacked with a disease, which appears to spread in anything wood or otherwise that they are put in. I am inclined to think that the trouble is in the coin itself or the patination.

I remember well that your commemorative shields were not nice in appearance. It was the idea more than anything that I was after.

We have recently obtained on a long time loan, the Greek coins that

the late J. Pierpont Morgan collected. Although not a large collection, it has some great rarities from the Strozzi and other sales. Mrs. Brett is working on this, and after the war the collection will be published. Mrs. Brett has been doing a heroic work the past year in a card catalogue of Greek coins. We have gotten nearly to the end of cutting up duplicate plate catalogues and pasting them on cards. How many thousand have already been done, I could not say for certain. I should judge around twenty thousand cards are already in the collection. It is already proving itself of value. A special incident may be sighted that Mrs. Brett has been able to trace nearly every one of the Morgan coins with almost no effort.

The streets here are filled with soldiers. One day you see men of a certain organization, and the next day they are gone. Apparently a steady stream is going over all the time. We are kept in almost total ignorance of what is going on. In other wars whenever troops left, they had a great send off and ovation. Now they quietly go off to some camp, and then after a short while you cease to hear anything about them. You on the other side probably know much more than we do, what we are doing or are going to do in this great war. Everybody is taking it seriously, and in many ways there has been a complete change over in this country. The draft, which seemed to be slow in getting going, is going along steadily and quietly. Although the raising of the army seems to be slow, I am inclined to think that it is going along faster than we can send the men over, as everything they use or will use has to go over too. Evidently big headway has been made in sending over railway supplies and construction men, so that when we are ready we will have everything running smoothly over in France.

I beg to remain,

Yours very sincerely,

October 3rd, 1917.

George F. Hill, Esq.,
Department of Coins & Medals,
British Museum,
London, England.

My dear Mr. Hill:-

I am enclosing herewith one of the new quarters. This you will note shows some improvements on the new design issued the first of the year.

Mr. Newell and Mrs. Brett beg to be remembered to you.

I remain,

Very truly yours,

DEPARTMENT OF COINS AND MEDALS,
BRITISH MUSEUM,
LONDON : W.C.1.

Oct. 26. 1917

Dear Mr. Howland Wood

Very many thanks for so kindly thinking of us again. I have placed the previous ¼ dollars that you sent, with all our other recent acquisitions, in a place of great safety against air-attacks, so I can't compare the new one with the old at present.

I wrote to Mr. Newell two letters this week; and I have one from Mrs. Beatt, promising

to send me an impression of a Cretan coin; I will answer it when the latter arrives. Meanwhile, kind regards to all.

Things are going pretty well in France; the last French victory in the valley of the Aisette is tremendously significant. I hope the above that the Germans are making in Italy will not come to much. As to Russia, even there nothing seems to be going to be done until next spring, and one hopes that by then the Bolshevik party will have been put in its right place. It's clear we can't count on active help from Russia now, but if she will only stand fast, we can do the rest.

Yours very sincerely G F Hill

I've no personal news, except that Mr. Robinson is to be married [illegible]

February 7th, 1918.

George F. Hill, Esq.,
Department of Coins and Medals,
British Museum,
London, England.

Dear Mr. Hill:-

I am sending you another one of the Mexican Revolutionary coins, which I have not sent you before. Please accept this with my compliments. This coin is interesting as it has on it Death to Huerta. There were two dies used. The first set was struck at Cuencame in Durango, under orders of Generals Calixto Contreras and Severino Ciscaros. The first die soon broke and a second die was made, and a considerable number of pieces were struck from this die, which is the one I am sending. These dies later were seized by Villa who issued additional pieces. As near as I have been able to ascertain those struck by Villa are heavier than those struck by the two Generals. The Villa pieces weigh considerably over four hundred grains while the earlier pieces seem to weigh under four hundred grains.

We have just received news to-day of the sinking of one of our transports, but so far details are lacking.

I see next to nothing of Mrs. Ireti nowadays as she is doing special work for the Government.

I beg to remain,

Yours very truly,

Curator.

DEPARTMENT OF COINS AND MEDALS,
BRITISH MUSEUM,
LONDON : W.C.1.

Feb. 19. 1918

Dear Mr. Wood,

Very many thanks for the most interesting Mexican Revolutionary dollar with the MUERA HUERTA, which has reached me safely this morning. You will receive a formal acknowledgement in due course — unless it gets torpedoed. Meanwhile accept my thanks. It is very pleasant to know

that there are friends of the Museum in New York who remember it in this way.

You mention the loss of your transport; I am very glad that so large a proportion of the men were saved. We must expect this sort of thing, which is legitimate warfare (to give the devil his due); and we are fortunate, and owe it to the splendid work of the Allied Navies, that we have lost so few troops

DEPARTMENT OF COINS AND MEDALS,
BRITISH MUSEUM,
LONDON : W.C.1.

in this way.

Just now London is going through a succession of raids. The amount of damage done by this sort of warfare is extraordinarily small; and I am glad to be able to say that the effect on the nerves of the population is much less than one might expect. Of course the experience is trying, especially when it comes for

several nights in succession, so that one gets little or no sleep. But there has been nothing resembling panic, except in one instance, among the galoots of the East End.

The authorities have finally decided to remove as much of the contents of the museum as possible out of reach of the raids. Of course much cannot be moved, owing to its extreme fragility on the one hand, or solidity on the other. We are therefore packing as hard as we can. As I am single handed, you can imagine that I am not enjoying myself.

Yours Sincerely
GT Hill

Department of Coins and Medals,
British Museum,
London : W.C.1.

Aug. 20. 1918

Dear Mr. Haviland Wood

I am very much obliged to you for so kindly sending me the two copies of the Bandini Catalogue. They will be very useful indeed as a record. It is very kind of you to have taken so much trouble.

London has been disgracing itself by traffic-strikes. It is very humiliating. Yours sincerely

G F Hill

POST CARD.

THE ADDRESS TO BE WRITTEN ON THIS SIDE.

Howland Wood, Esq.
American Numismatic Society
Broadway at 156th St.
New York
U.S.A.

December 18th, 1918.

Mr. George F. Hill,
Department of Coins and Medals,
British Museum,
London, England.

Dear Mr. Hill:-

Your letter of the 27th arrived today. I trust as time goes on and things settle down that our Society can keep in closer touch with your Department and help one another where possible.

I can appreciate the work ahead of you in transferring the coins back into their proper places. I have been going through this the past year and am by no means near done as I have been virtually alone here for months. Our Secretary has just been released from the Officers' Training Camp so I no longer have to bother with that end. Mr. Newell writes me that until the peace treaty is over with he sees no likli-hood of his being released. He is in the Army Intelligence Bureau.

I doubt if labor troubles over here will be serious. There will be some turn-overs as men getting out of the Army are not looking for indoor jobs. Juaging from the papers one would think that all of the Allies were going to be em-broiled. Yet I can not find any one who seriously thinks that there is going to be anything but harmonious action with of course compromise from all sides. A lot of the talk going around is simply politics because it is the Republican Party that is and has been most pro-war. and pro-England while the Democratic Party, not having been in power much in later years only recently, hardly knows what their policy is or where they are at.

Do you get Treasure Trove Coins from India, and if so to whom do you apply to get on their list? As I think I

already mentioned, we have today really a very fine collection of Mohammedan coins, especially Indian.

I am enclosing two Mexican Revolutionary copper coins. The one struck at Durango is rare. The other one was struck at Parral. I have forgotten whether I sent you these before when I sent you the two silver coins. If it is a duplicate, simply turn it over to some other Museum.

I remain,

Yours very truly,

Curator.

Jan. 2. 1919

Dear Mr. Howland Wood,

Very many thanks for your kind letter of Dec. 18 just to hand, with the two Mexican coppers, which I have gladly added to our collection.

We are actually in working order again; I am glad to say I was able to report this fact on Jan. 1st. Two of my four assistants are back. There is of course a mass of work to do, in the way of checking, incorporation and labelling; but we can see our way clear again. When we shall get our money grants again, Heaven

alone knows.

As to T. T. from India, the B.M. has been badly off since the institution of the Archaeological Survey in India. T. T. is divided among a number of museums, & the local Indian museums take precedence of the British. All I can suggest is that you should write to Sir John Marshall, Director General, Archaeological Survey, Simla, and ask to be put on the list. They may put you on, but whether you will get anything is another matter!

If you see Mrs. Baldwin

Brett, will you be so good as to thank her for her good wishes, which we heartily reciprocate? She gives us address on her card.

I agree with you that a great deal of trouble is being engineered for political purposes; as if we had not rocks ahead enough already. It is incredible how many people there are who have

learned so many [illegible] of
war — and forgotten nothing!

With very kind regards
and best wishes.

Yours sincerely
G F Hill.

P.S. Some time ago, Mr. Maurice
Rosenheim gave us a large
find of coins (denarii) of
the Dukes of Athens and
Princes of Achaia (13th —
14th cent.) Have you a large

series of these? Is it any use my sending you, as a present from him, some of the duplicates which we have over? They are, as you know, quite common. I don't think I sent them to you before.

F. T. M.

DEPARTMENT OF COINS AND MEDALS,
BRITISH MUSEUM,
LONDON : W.C.1.

29 Jan. 1919

Dear Mr. Wood,

Here is Dieudonné's reply to your query. It seems fairly sound. Don't return it.

Yours in haste

G F Hill

DEPARTMENT OF COINS AND MEDALS,
BRITISH MUSEUM,
LONDON : W.C.1.

Feb. 20. 1919

Dear Mr. Wood,

Many thanks for your letter of Feb. 3, with news of all our friends. All my staff are back except Mr. Brooke.

Here is one part of the coins of the Princes of Achaia on. They all should be acknowledged to Maurice Rosenheim, Esq. 15 Baleigh Road Pinner Lond N.W.

I am sending the remainder (acknowledgment to come later) in another envelope.

Yours sincerely

T T Bell

DEPARTMENT OF COINS AND MEDALS,
BRITISH MUSEUM,
LONDON: W.C.1.

Feb. 20. 1919

Dear Mr. Wood,

Herewith the second portion of the coins presented to your museum by Mr. H. Rosenheim, 18 Eaton Rise Park [illegible]

Yours Sincerely

G F Hill

2
4
11
10
32
4
1
3
2
6
11
2
78
201

February 24th, 1919.

George F. Hill, Esq.,
Department of Coins and Medals,
British Museum,
London, England.

Dear Mr. Hill:-

The enclosed extract from Napier's Peninsula War caught my eye. Do you know anything about these coins and are such things in existence today, and how are they distinguished from those coined by Napoleon? You will notice it says that he did the same thing in India. I suppose these were coins of Mysore. I have heard from several sources that Gordon while at Khartum coined lead money. In fact, an old English soldier promised us some but he has never delivered the goods. Has the B. M. any of these and what do they look like. Also, if such things are in existence do you know where I could get a specimen at a reason price. I am more or less familar with his paper money and understand that he ever wrote I.O.U's on postage stamps.

Our Congress seems to be having a good deal to say nowadays about the league of nations and other things but I do not see that there is much of any echo from the people. Congress always did take itself too seriously, and I suppose you have the same difficulty with Parliament.

We have had no winter at all here this year. Half the days have been like spring days, while last year when we had no coal we were frozen up solid.

Let me know if Mr. Allen is back in the Museum, and believe me,

Yours very truly,

DEPARTMENT OF COINS AND MEDALS,
BRITISH MUSEUM,
LONDON : W.C.1.

13 Mar. 1919

Dear Mr. Howland Wood,

No, though I remember the passage in Napier, I have never seen any verification of it. I will send it on to Paris. As to Gordon's leaden coins, I never heard of them; there are plenty of base metal London dollars, though

I don't in the least know how you could get them. Ours were got specially, for the most part, from an Egyptian collector. But I don't think they can be what your old soldier meant. The metal is so bad that they look like lead, very often.

Allan is back, in fact all my men, except Brooke.

I quite agree with you about the futility of Parliamentary talk. But the League of Nations, or whatever it is to be called,

(2)

DEPARTMENT OF COINS AND MEDALS,
BRITISH MUSEUM,
LONDON : W.C.1.

is a serious matter. I imagine your President has made himself unpopular with certain people and parties, by going ahead on his own lines. It must be very difficult for him to keep in touch, even if he were the most accessible of men!

Yours sincerely,

G. F. Hill

March 26th, 1919.

George F. Hill, Esq.,
British Museum,
London, England.

My dear Mr. Hill:-

I am working up the coins of Tugucigalpa, the Mint at Honduras. This mint was started by the Spaniards, probably in 1823. We have two specimens of this type, and later in the year this region became part of Mexico, and we have two other coins dated 1823 showing the Mexican influence. Fonrobert describes a type that we have not got. I am enclosing casts of the four coins we have which you may keep. If you have any other varieties, could you send me castings?

Mr. Newell has just gotten his discharge from the Army, and I expect him back today.

Some time if you can give me a list of what coins you have of Mexico during the present revolution, I will see what I can address stray ones are turning up here all the time. Have you any of the Oaxaca issue? These are quite scarce. I think I can get you certain of the types.

Very truly yours,

Curator.

DEPARTMENT OF COINS AND MEDALS,
BRITISH MUSEUM,
LONDON : W.C.1.

9 Apr. 1919

Dear Mr. Wood,

Many thanks for your letter of 26 Mar. Of Tegucigalpa we have only one coin, similar to one of yours (1823). We will send you a cast of this, though it is no better than yours.

I have asked Mr. Allan to get out the enclosed list.

I believe we owe all these coins & your kindness. We have nothing of the Oaxaca issue, and if you continue & be kind we shall be proportionately grateful!

How glad you must be & get Mr. Newell back again. Give him my best regards.

Yours Sincerely

G T Hall

Coins of the Mexican Revolution
in the British Museum.

1. UN PESO 1914, "Muera Huerta" struck at Cuencame.

2. Un Peso 1915, "EJERCITO DEL NORTE" struck by Villa after breach with Carranza.

3. 1 Peso 1913 "H. DEL PARRAL" struck by Villa at Hidalgo del Parral

4. DOS PESOS 1914 "REFORMA; LIBERTAD; JUSTICIA" struck by Zapata at Tasco.

Should have also 1914 1 Peso Zapata

5. Silver 50 centavos 1913 "FUERZAS CONSTITUCIONALISTAS struck by Villa at Hidalgo del Parral.

6. 2 centavos 1913 as no. 5.

7. 5 centavos 1914 "EJERCITO CONSTITUCIONALISTA struck by Villa at Chihuahua.

8. do. 1915 do

9. 10 centavos 1915 do

10. 2 centavos, as no. 6 but no date.

11. 5 centavos 1914 of Durango.

Oaxaca

Dos Pesos escales
2 6 cavs around
1 Peso 2 cavs
50 cavs
20 "
10 2 cavs
5 a 2 cavs
3 2 cavs
1

Senora next page.
Mesa Nuevita page 1st dec showing the
break
Zapata Peso 1915

DEPARTMENT OF COINS AND MEDALS,
BRITISH MUSEUM,
LONDON: W.C.1.

4/20/19

Dear Mr Hill

I am sending you the casts of Metapontum coins for Mr. Pike. In the same box are 9 casts of coins of Philip II, Alexander & Philip III of Macedon for Mr. E. T. Newell.

Perhaps you can find him them some time.

Have received your
letter of the 4th and
and we will answer it
when he comes in
here.

DEPARTMENT OF COINS AND MEDALS,
BRITISH MUSEUM,
LONDON: W.C.1.

6/9/19

Dear Mr Howland Wood,

Mr Hill is away on holiday this month.

Many thanks for the two Mexican coins. We have now quite a collection. Thanks for your offer of the 1/2 dollar when he comes.

I shall send you the cast of the Fortuna as soon as I can get one made.

Yours

June 16th, 1919

George F. Hill, Esq.
Department of Coins and Medals
British Museum,

Dear Mr. Hill:-

Several of your letters are at hand but have been delayed in answering them as I was trying to pick up some more Mexican Revolutionary coins. I am enclosing 13 Oaxaca coins several of which are simply die varieties. As near as I can figure out there are over 150 minor varieties in these Oaxaca coins. They are now very rare as the Carranza forces melted them up. You will find an account of these in the Numismatist for October 1910. I am also sending you an extremely rare cast peso of Sinaloa. The actually have enough gold included with the silver to make them worth considerably over face. Consequently they were melted up within a few days after they were put out. There was a previous issue that had even more gold in it. I have one that weighs 505 grains.

Many thanks for the Tegucigalpa piece. The more I go into this matter the rarer they seem to be and about every specimen I have located is different. Also many thanks for th trouble you have taken about counterfeit French gold. I have read with much interest the references given by Diendonne.

We have possibly the best collection of Sudan pie there is; about 125 pieces. In this connection do you know thing of a Herbert S. Job of Khartum. He wrote us about th years ago and he has never replied to several letters.

I amnow hard at work on our Indian coins. We rea have a remarkable collection. I am glad to know Allan is

I will have some questions for him before long. Please remember me to him.

Have you or any of your staff any intention of visiting this country in the near future. If so we would be very glad to see any of you. Some of us will probably [illegible] to be going over within a year.

Very truly yours,

Curator

DEPARTMENT OF COINS AND MEDALS,
BRITISH MUSEUM,
LONDON: W.C. 1

1 July 1909

Dear Mr. Wood,

It is exceedingly kind of you to help us so well supplied. The 13 Daric & the 7 Sicilian coins have just come in time for my weekly report of donations. You ought to receive the thanks of the Trustees in about a fortnight after this.

I have heard of Mr. H.S

vols, but do not know whether he is doing anything more at his Sudan coins.

I don't think any of us are likely to get over to your side of the water, not even in R 34. But we shall be very glad to welcome you here. Ernest Gardner was telling me about your wonderful pictures for your Num. (matic Society, & filled

me with envy.

Allen is away on long leave, but I will give him your message.

I am anxious waiting for Newell to return me the proofs of his article for the Numismatic Chronicle; it is about time they came.

Yours very sincerely,

G F Hill

August 22, 1919.

Mr. George F. Hill,
Department of Coins & Medals,
British Museum,
London, W. C. 1, England.

Dear Mr. Hill-

Your letter of July 1st came to hand while I was [illegible] since I returned I have been trying to make a trial [illegible] of Mil.

I am enclosing two more Mexican Revolutionary Coins. The Morelos Dollar, as I think I wrote you, has a variety of [illegible]. This piece is of the first die struck at Cuautenango Durango but under order of Generals Calixto Contreras and Severino Ciriceros. As you will see this die [illegible] and the second die was made a copy of which I sent you some time ago. The piece is not in as good condition on the reverse as I would like but never the less it is representative of the whole issue as the planchets were circularly ruled. The other piece is a one dean of the Zapata coin struck at Tasco in Guerrero in 1913, Note the way they spell Tasco it the Indian form.

My records show that I sent you one of these dated 1914 but I did not find it on the list you sent me a short while ago.

I think that the proofs from Newell crossed your letter to me for he told me he had sent them when I entrusted the feet to him. I think he wrote you too at the time.

In about a month Mr. Arthur C. Wyman is going to Thailand for a few months stay. He has been my assistant here for somewhat over a year but has been attending mostly to the Administrative side of the Society and I have been working him in to the mysteries of the Numismatic side. He has proved to be a

Mr. George F. Hill, ( )

very apt pupil. I will give him a letter of introduction to you as he is very anxious to see certain series of the B. M. and is also anxious to learn as much as possible about method and management. I am trying to make plans to get over to England some time in 1909.

Our Secretary, Mr. Fox, is making a very close study of decimation coins and asked me if you can send him casts of those in the enclosed list.

I beg to remain,

I be

Very truly yours,

(Miss .) Curator.

August 22, 1919.

Mr. George F. Hill,
Department of Coins & Medals,
British Museum,
London, W. C. 1, England.

Dear Mr. Hill:-

Your letter of July 1st came to hand while I was on my vacation and since I returned I have been trying to poke my head up over an accumulation of mail.

I am enclosing two more Mexican Revolutionary coins. The Huerta Huerta, is I think, a variety of the one sent you. This piece is of the first die struck at Guanacevi Durango, under order of Generals Calixto Contreras, and Severino Ceceres. As you will see this die broke and the second die was made, a copy of which I sent you some time ago. The piece is not in as good condition on the reverse as I would like but never the less it is representative of the whole issue as the planchets were carelessly rolled. The other piece is a one Peso of the Zapata issue struck at Tasco in Guerrero in 1915. Note the way they spell Tasco - it is the Indian form.

My records show that I sent you one of these dated 1914 but I did not find it on the list you sent me a short while ago.

I think that the proofs from Newell crossed your letter to me for he told me he had sent them when I mentioned the fact to him. I think he wrote you too at the time.

In about a month a Mr. Arthur C. Wyman is going to England for a few months stay. He has been my assistant here for somewhat over a year byut has been attending mostly to the Administrative side of the Society and I have been working him in to the myster-

ies of the Numismatic side. He has proved to be a very apt pupil. I am giving him a letter of introduction to you as he is very anxious to see certain series of the B. M. Cabinet and is also anxious to learn as much as possible about method and management. I am trying to make plans to get over to England some time in 1920.

Our Secretary, Mr. Noe, is making a very close study of Metapontum coins and asked me if you can send him casts of these on the enclosed list.

I beg to remain,

Very truly yours,

Curator.

August 28, 1919.

Mr. George F. Hill,
British Museum,
London, England.

My dear Mr. Hill:-

This is to introduce to you Mr. Arthur C. Wyman who has been assisting me here for the past year chiefly in routine and administrative work. He began late in his career with coins but is trying to make up for lost time. He expects to be in London in and out for two or three months and is anxious to make the most of his opportunities while there.

Any favors you can do for me by offering him - as where to go and what to see as well as letting him bother you in the B. M. Cabinet will be much appreciated by

September 12th, 1919.

George F. Hill, Esq.,
British Museum,
London, England.

My dear Mr. Hill:-

My assistant, Mr. Wyman, has just left for England by the way of Montreal, and I am enclosing a letter which I wish you would hand him when you see him.

I beg to remain,

Very truly yours,

Curator.

DEPARTMENT OF COINS AND MEDALS,
BRITISH MUSEUM,
LONDON: W.C. 1

6 Dec. '09

Dear Mr. Wood,

I am very glad to hear that there is some prospect of your coming to this country next year. We shall be very glad to see you here, and I hope you will find an opportunity,

of looking through our Oriental collection. We have many coins which might be helpful to us for you to see — and perhaps you will find something useful for your own studies, at the same time.

With kind regards

Yours sincerely

F. W. Hall

February 21, 1920

George F. Hill, Esq.
Department of Coins and Medals
British Museum
London, W.C., 1, England

My dear Mr. Hill:

I delayed acknowledging your letter of December until I had something definite to say.

My plans are now made to leave here the latter part of April, and I should be in London the first part of May. I am looking forward with much interest to my trip abroad, as I have not been over for some time.

I wrote Mr. Allen a short time ago, stating I would be over, and asked him if there were any special things he wanted me to make notes of or bring over impressions. If there is anything special you would like, let me know. Mr. Tyman has been sandwiching in between his other work the making of casts of the Morgan Roman gold for Mr. Mattingly.

Will you inform Mr. Allen, or whoever looks after these matters in the Royal Numismatic Society, that Mr. Henry Clay Miller died on February 5th?

I beg to remain,

Very truly,

Curator.

September 29th, 1920.

George F. Hill, Esq.,
Department of Coins & Medals,
British Museum,
London, England.

Dear Mr. Hill:-

I reached home safely on September 13th after a very pleasant trip, and found, as you may imagine, plenty to do which I think will keep me out of mischief for many months to come.

I beg to thank you both in behalf of myself and the Society for the many favors rendered me while working in the Museum.

I remain,

Most truly yours,

Curator.

September 1st, 1921

George F. Hill, Esq.
Dept. of Coins & Medals
British Museum, London, W.C.1

My dear Mr. Hill:

I am glad to see your handwriting once again. The queries I made of Mr. Allan can wait until his return.

We are expecting Mr. Noe back any day now, and I shall then endeavour to take my own vacation. I have been kept more than busy since my return from England and the way things look now, I will be kept even busier if such a thing is possible. It is something like the old story of trying to put a quart into a pint measure.

We had a most enjoyable visit from Mr. Whitehead. We are now looking forward to one of the Staff of the British Museum coming over here to see what we have to offer.

With kind regards,

Very truly yours,

Curator

EW/E

DEPARTMENT OF COINS AND MEDALS,
BRITISH MUSEUM,
LONDON, W.C.1.

18 iv 1922

Dear Mr. Howland Wood,

Allan is away for a few days, so I am acknowledging your letter. He will go through the coins when he returns & put a price on them, & then we will buy them at the next meeting of the Trustees. Many thanks.

Yes, we have got the

Whitehead Collection. I should like to take this opportunity of saying how much we appreciate your attitude in the matter. And Newell has behaved most generously. I expect him any day now, and we will talk over duplicates.

Many thanks for the two Alabama $\frac{1}{2}$ dollars. We have neither, and are glad to accept them.

Yours Sincerely,

George F. Hall

May 4th, 1922

George F. Hill, Esq.
Dept. of Coins & Medals
British Museum, London, W.C.1

Dear Mr. Hill:

Permit me to congratulate you on getting the Whitehead collection. Naturally, we should have liked to see it come here; it would undoubtedly then have put our Indian coins in second place. As it is now, the B.M. is absolutely nailed down to first place, while the next best collection is so far behind that one might say there is no second place, therefore you can look with special pride on your Indian series. As a matter of fact, there is no other place where these coins should be more fittingly represented than in the B.M. - unless in India; and to my mind, India, on account of its distance and an uncertainty of what centuries will bring forth, is not really the country for a collection which cannot be duplicated. The only other thing I can say is, that I envy Allan his opportunity of having such an aggregation of coins at his elbow.

We expect Newell back within a couple of weeks, and we all shall be glad to see him.

Very truly yours,

Curator

H./E

DEPARTMENT OF COINS AND MEDALS,
BRITISH MUSEUM,
LONDON, W.C.1.

17 Oct. 1922

Dear Mr. Wood,

Very many thanks for all the trouble you have taken about Attambelos. Please be assured that I have nothing at all to grumble about in regard to the production, which is much worse than that in the New Chron

Sir Charles Dixon has acquired the remaining one, which Col. McCormick kept as a 'Souvenir'!

An infant passing through London on his way to California brought me — while Allan was away — what I suppose to be a modern fake in silver of a pre-historic bas. I told him — as he could not leave it

for Allen to see —
to submit it to you.
Forgive me
with kind regards
Yours sincerely,
Geo F Hall

Department of Coins and Medals,
British Museum,
London: W.C 1.

12 Dec. 1922

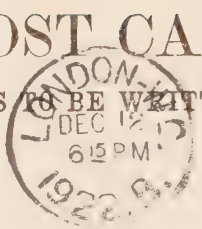
You may have an enquiry from one Creasy about a bogus Indian medal (inscr. in Nagari pseudo characters). As he certainly will not believe that I have told him I have suspected that if he wants a second opinion he should apply to you.

Kind regards & best wishes

George F. Hill

POST CARD.

THE ADDRESS TO BE WRITTEN ON THIS SIDE.



Howland Wood, Esq.
American Numismatic Society
Broadway at 156th St.
New York City
U.S.A.

DEPARTMENT OF COINS AND MEDALS,

BRITISH MUSEUM,

LONDON: W.C.

12 Feb. 1923.

Dear Mr. Howland Wood,

To-day the copy of the Huntington Medal inscribed with my name has reached me, together with your kind letter and the very flattering citation signed by your President. I have already tried to express my deep sense of gratification at the honour for which your Society has singled me out. It would be ungracious of me to say that I feel the compliment to be undeserved; but this I should like to say, that what one does in an institution like the British Museum towards furthering the study of numismatics very much depends on the help and sympathy of one's colleagues, both senior and junior; and if I have been able to do anything, it is largely owing to my good fortune in having had such teachers as Head and Gardner, and such an admirable staff as that which now works under me.

Believe me to be,

dear Mr. Howland Wood,

Yours sincerely

George F Hill

Howland Wood, Esq.

June 16th, 1923

Mr. George F. Hill
Dept. of Coins & Medals
British Museum, London

Dear Mr. Hill:

Can you tell us anything about the medal of which I am enclosing a rubbing? It is in pewter and we have one here, and two or three others have been shown to us. I should judge it was made about 1829. If you could give me any information as for the reason it was made, I should greatly appreciate it. Do you consider it at all rare?

Very truly yours,

Curator

HW/E
Enc.

DEPARTMENT OF COINS AND MEDALS,
BRITISH MUSEUM,
LONDON: W.C.1.

Dear Mr. Wood 27 V. 1927

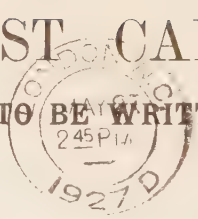
I have to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of 16 May addressed to Mr. Sloan. He is at present out of town, but will attend to it on his return about 15 June.

As I gather you are not in a great hurry, I will leave it to him to look out the coins & have casts made for you.

Yours truly
George F. Hill

POST CARD.

THE ADDRESS TO BE WRITTEN ~~ON THIS SIDE~~



Howland Wood, Esq
American Numismatic Society
Broadway at 156 th. St.
New York City
U. S. A.

صبا اند ریتل

July 28, 1930

George F. Hill, Esq.
British Museum
London, W.C., England

Dear Mr. Hill:

I am enclosing two rubbings of life-saving medals formerly issued by our government to foreign sailors who have been instrumental in saving American lives. We are writing up the series of life-saving medals and are anxious to obtain a list of the various dates engraved on them; also, we should like to know the kind of metal of which they are made. We have records of their being issued in gold and silver, and I think that some of them are in bronze. We should be very much obliged to you for any information that you can supply concerning dates and metal of these life-saving medals.

Very truly yours,

Curator.

DEPARTMENT OF COINS AND MEDALS,
BRITISH MUSEUM,
LONDON: W.C.

8th August 1930.

Dear Mr. Wood,

Alas! we have not a single specimen of the two Life-Saving medals which you mention, so we cannot help you.

Yours sincerely,

George F Hill

Howland Wood, Esq.
American Numismatic Society,
Broadway at 156th Street,
New York,
U.S.A.

19 xii 1930

Dear Mr. Wood,

It is very good of you to write to me, wishing me well in my new post. It is a difficult one, and means, I fear, an end to my numismatic work. But I am comforted to know that the American Numismatic Society is going

to print such notes as I have been able to put together on Spanish coins.

Yours very sincerely

George F Hill

British Museum.

13 July, 1935

Sir,

I am directed by the Trustees of the British Museum to convey to you the expression of their best thanks for the Present mentioned on the other side, which you have been pleased to make to them.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your obedient Servant.

George Hill

Director and Principal Librarian.

Howland Wood, Esq.

11 silver coins of the Imams of Sana.